(3) State Governments to suitably amend the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Rules to make provisions for the return of rejected beedis free of cost to beedi workers;

(4) All provident fund arrears on account of employers contributions should be paid by 31st December, 1990, failing which cases should be launched against employers for depositing not only their own contribution but also the share of employees.

Additional Supply of rice and wheat to West Bengal

*78. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request was recently received from West Bengal Government for an additional supply of rice and wheat for its public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet their requirements?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of West Bengal had requested for enhancement of their monthly allocation of rice from 69,000 tonnes to 95,000 tonnes and that of wheat from 90,000 to 1,08,000 tonnes per month and for a special allotment of 10,000 tonnes of rice for Puja Festival.

(c) The rice allocation to the State has been enhanced to 74,000 tonnes per month from August, 1990. The request for additional allocation of 10,000 tonnes of rice for the Puja festival has also been agreed to.

Losses suffered by the Public Sector Fertilizer Units

*79. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage of rise in the losses suffered by the public sector fertilizer units in the country in 1989-90 (unitwise) and what is the accumulated loss as against the loss-profit during 1988-89; and

(b) what are the reasons for the continuous losses and the manner in which Government propose to make the public sector fertilize units economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) The percentage of variation (increase/decrease) in losses by the public sector units during 1989-90 and accumulated losses as against the loss-

profit during 1988-89 is given below:— (Rs. in crores)

Name of the Company/ Unit	Losses		%	Accumulated Losses	
	1988-89	1989-90 (pro-visional)	increase (-) decrease (+)	1988-89	1989-90 (pro-visional)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. The Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI)	(-) 191.24	(-) 164.80	(+) 13.80	1070.22	1235.00
2. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC)	(-) 156.38	(-) 169.14	(-) 8.16	779.91	949.00
3. Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL)	(-) 9.52	(-) 8.39	(+) 11.87	30.25	38.64
4. Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Limited (PPCL)	(+) 1.21	(-) 0.97	(-) 180	Not applicable	
5. Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL)	(+) 12.04	(-) 44.40	(-) 468	16.56	60.96

(b) The losses in the case of FCI and HFC units were mainly due to low capacity utilisation on account of power shortage, design deficiencies, old and obsolete technology, equipment break-downs and surplus manpower, and because the coal based technology was used for the first time in the case of FCFs plants at Ramagundam and Talcher. In the case of PDIL, it was because of delay in the setting up of the gas based plants on the HBJ pipeline thus reducing PDIL's manpower utilisation. In the case of PPCL, it was because their Sulphuric acid and Single Superphosphate plants at Amjhore were commissioned only in January, 1990, and the plants could not stabilise during three months. In the case of PPL, the loss was mainly due to non-availablity of phosphoric acid and problems of industrial relations.

With a view to improving the profitability of the fertilizer plants, several schemes for revamping, modernisation, installation of captive power plants etc. are being implemented / formulated.

Malpractices in Railway reservations

*80. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of cases of malpractices in Railway reservations which were detected during the last three months.

(b) The number of Railway employees